by our paper industry. Now I also understand that the National Wasteland Development Board has sent a proposal that the paper industry could be given, on long lease, such of those lands which are not useful for cultivation so that they can grow their own forests so that the pressure on the existing forests can be removed. I would like to know about these two points.

श्री भजन लाल : सभापति महोदय फॉरेस्ट एरिया में किसी भी प्राइवेट व्यक्ति को जमीन देने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं हो सकता । लेकिन अगर कोई स्टेट गवर्नमेंट अपने ऐवेन्यू एस्टेट में से चाहे तो भारत सरकार को उसमें कोई ऐतराज नहीं है । लेकिन जैसा कि इन्होंने कहा कि कुछ संस्थाएं हैं समाज सेवी संस्थाएं हैं या पंचायतें हैं क्या उनको हम पेड़ लगाने की सुविधा देंगे, तो उनको हम बकायदा इनवाल्व करने की कोशिश करते हैं ताकि जो शामलात जमीनें पड़ी हुई हैं उसमें पेड़ लगाए जा सकें । इसके लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की स्कीमें हैं कि वे पेड़ लगाएं ताकि उन पेड़ों की मालिक भी गांव पंचायतें हो सकें और उनके साधन भी बन सकें । इसके साथ ही साथ मुल्क में ज्यादा से ज्यादा पेड़ लग सकें ।

जहां तक वनों का ताल्लुक है यह ठीक है कि मुल्क में कानूनी तौर पर साढ़े सात करोड़ हैक्टेयर भूमि में वन हैं लेकिन आप मौके पर जाकर देखेंगे तो इतना वन नहीं है क्योंकि बहुत से कटे हुए हैं, कुछ डिग्रेडेड हैं और कुछ अच्छे नहीं हैं । अच्छे का हिसाब लगाकर देखें तो तकरीबन आधार ही बैठता है । लेकिन हमारी कोशिश यही है कि जंगलों को फिर से हरा भरा किया जाए और उनमें दोबारा वन लगाएं जाएं ताकि वनों के विनाश को रोका जा सके और वन ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुल्क में लगें इसके लिए हमने स्कीमें बनाई हैं ।

*183. [Transferred to the 8th May, 1987].

MR. CHAIRMAN: The woods are lovely, dark and deep.

But I have promises to keep the questions moving. Question No. 184.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: And miles to go before, I sleep, Sir.

Development of Places of Pilgrimage as Tourist Spots

*184. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places of pilgrimage which have been developed to tourist spots by the Central Government so far in various States;

(b) the names of places of pilgrimage in various parts of the country which are proposed to be developed as tourist spots during the year 1987-88; and

(c) the particulars of places of Jain pilgrimage which have so far been developed in the country as places of tourist attraction and are proposed to be developed as such in 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Tourism provides facilities for pilgrims by constructing Yatrikas/other accommodation and by improving and developing other tourist facilities at places of pilgrimage. Such facilities have been provided at Amarkantak, Chitrakoot, Bidar, Kampil, Nandmehr, Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Varanasi, Bhubaneshwar and Madurai.

(b) For 1987-88, the Central Ministry of Tourism has received proposals from the State Governments for construction of Yatrikas/dharamshalas/musafirkhanas at Gangasagar, Mayapur, Srisailam, Naina Devi, Namisharanaya, Bihar Sharif, Ujjain. Financial assistance will be given subject to merits of the proposal, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

(c) A cafeteria at Rajgir has been constructed and a Tourist Bungalow at Ranakpur is under construction. The Central Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal from State Governments for developing Jain pilgrimage centres in 1987-88.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that in place of pilgrimage in India there are very ancient buildings, temples, mosques etc. and people in lakhs go to these places and they do not find any accommodation proper accommodation, I must say, dharamsala or hotels. So, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact and want to know what steps the Central Government is taking. Of course in the answer it is written that the State Government just proposes it. The Tourism Ministry of the Central Government, I would request, should take up the matter and should make construction of the necessary accommodation at these important places.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the Government of India, Ministry of Tourism has a scheme, specially of the type the hon. Member wants, for constructing dharamsalas, yatri nivas, musafirkhanas at the places of pilgrimage. A registered society called the Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti has been formed, and the Department of Tourism provides funds up to 90 per cent of the cost of construction, and the balance funds are raised by the Samiti. Land is provided free of cost by the State Government concerned or by way of donation by some charitable institutions. The Samiti basically constructs two types of yatrikas—one for 50 persons and the other for 100 persons. The cost of construction for the first category is Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and for the second category it is Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. So, this scheme is made use of by the State Government, and I hope it will meet to some extend the problem of accommodation which the hon. Member has in mind.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: I would request the hon. Minister: Please don't wait for the proposal from the State Governments. You should also make suggestions and proposals to the State Governments.

Secondly, I would like you to include in this list of places which have been mentioned, Sarvanabelagola in Karnataka. I have been there twice, and I find that that place is a place of national importance. The place consists of 2 small hills—one is known as Indragiri, and the other Chandragiri. One historian, an English writer, about two years ago, after 1,000 years of the Jain deity, has written that Chandragiri is known by the name of Chandragupta Maurya, Chandragupta Maurya had penance there. This is a matter of historical importance. Therefore, please give importance to this place. It has been since ancient times a place of pilgrimage. It is not only a place of importance for Karnataka but it is so for the entire nation. This place has to be preserved, and hotels and dharamsalas etc. have to be constructed in abundance so that lakhs of people can go there to worship the deities.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sarvanablelagola is a very well known pilgrimage centre, and the State Government, in consultation with the Central Government, are preparing a plan to develop the whole area. I am sure that this scheme of the Yatri Avas Vikas Nigam will be made use of. We will approach the State Government and suggest to

them. If they want assistance under some of the Central schemes, we will be prepared to help them.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I have seen the list where such facilities have been given at present and the place where they are going to give them for the year 1987. But I do not find any place in Maharashtra or Gujarat in this list.

Sir, as far as Maharashtra is concerned, Trombay Keshwar is there, Shirdi is there, Parle Vaidyanath is there. As far as Gujarat is concerned, Dwarka is there. Somnath is there. These are the places where lakhs of pilgrims go every year. I do not find any such kind of priority being given to these places. I would like to know from the Minister if the State Governments fail, whether the Tourist Department can start on its own to see that these places are covered and pilgrims are given facilities in the places which I have mentioned just now?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The list that I have given is only of those places where the State Governments have made use of the Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti scheme. I have a long list of pilgrim places in the country and we have given considerable assistance for developing that area for putting up Yatri Niwas, which is another category of accommodation. I am sure that our scheme is not only for Dwarka, but a lot of places like Somnath—that is also placed in the list—are covered where we are providing a cafeteria or developing a garden or any other complex. So, this list is not complete in that sense because it is only for a specific purpose, but I can assure the Members that a large number of tourist centres are being provided with these facilities. I would like to say that there is hardly any place of importance in our country which has no religious siginficance of some type or of some nature. We have a long history and long traditions. The Director of Archaeological Survey preserves those monuments. It concerns the Ministry of Tourism as to how the whole complex can be developed. The State Governments and the Central Government provide accommodation. Philanthropists also do so. I think all the facilities are being augmented at various places.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I don't think that these accommodations are cost free. So, if there are some charges, that would become very relevant. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has any scheme to see that these facilities are within the capacity of the poor people to pay? With that in view, I would like to know whether he is going to introduce any such scheme like Ran Basera type of accommodation where charges are very meagre and nominal so that the common people can stay there.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Yatri Niwas is exactly that type of scheme. Charges there in the dormitory are Rs. 2|- or a little more, but it is a little more for a room.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय मानवीय मंत्री जी ने अपने प्रश्न के उत्तर के (क) और (ख) भाग में उन प्रस्तावों की चर्चा की है जो राज्य सरकारों से प्राप्त हुए हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इलाहाबाद ऐतिहासिक स्थल और तीर्थ-स्थान होने के साथ-साथ पर्यटन का भी केन्द्र है वहां से 40 मील की दूरी पर एक बहुत ही पौराणिक और प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य स्थल कोशम्बी है जहां पर लगभग 25 वर्ष पूर्व खुदाई की गई तो बहुत से पौराणिक पत्थर और ऐतिहासिक सामग्री मिली थी वहां पर बहुत से पर्यटक और नागरिक घूमने के लिए जाते हैं। उस ऐतिहासिक स्थल को देखने और घूमने के लिए जो नागरिक जाते हैं उन्हें सुविधाएं देने और उस स्थान का विकास करने की दृष्टि से भारत सरकार के पास क्या वह दो वर्ष

पूर्व नागरिकों ने एक प्रस्ताव रखा था और मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी को पत्र भी लिखा था। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि कौशम्बी के विकास के लिए और जो तीर्थ-यात्री और पर्यटक वहां पर घूमने के लिए जाते हैं उन्हें सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए भारत सरकार का क्या कोई प्रस्ताव है ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन, यह प्रश्न इस सदन में पहले भी आ चुका है कि जिन टूरिस्टस स्थलों का विकास करना जरूरी है उनकी योजनाएं किस प्रकार से चलाई जायें। सरकार की नीति है कि राज्य सरकारों का सहयोग इन योजनाओं में अवश्य लिया जाये। किसी जगह स्वयं केन्द्रीय सरकार जाकर कोई काम करे जो न तो राज्य सरकार ने मांग की है और न ही उसकी प्राथमिकता में आता है, शायद चाहती भी न हो, उसके संबंध में यही उचित समझा गया कि राज्य सरकार अपनी स्थिति के अनुसार और उस राज्य में जो स्थान वह प्राथमिकता के आधार पर उचित समझती है उनके संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार की जो विशिष्ट योजनाएं हैं उनके अन्तर्गत क्या मदद देनी चाहिए उनमें उपलब्ध साधनों के अन्तर्गत मदद दी जाती है

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: From the answer of the hon. Minister it seems that the State Governments give names for inclusion in the scheme. I do not know whether there is any yardstick for selecting the places. I would like to know from the Minister whether there are any guidelines to the State Governments to select the places of pilgrimage and forward them to the Central Government and what are the criteria?

Second part of my question is whether it is confined to the places of Hindu religion or to others also.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have already said whether it is Yatri Niwas, Dharmshala or Musafirkhana, they are all available in the scheme. There is no question of any religion being barred. On the other hand all these religions are our Indian religions and are very much looked after while developing the centres. But I still require cooperation of State Governments and initiative on their part is necessary before a meaningful project is taken up.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: What about criteria for selection?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cape Comorin, Kanyakumari is the most beautiful place on earth, the Southern most tip of the peninsula; thousands of piligrims and tourists both domestic and foreign tourists visit that particular place. But no effort has been made by this Government to provide any accommodation from the Central Government side. It could have constructed ITDC hotels and Yatri Niwas but nothing has been done. May I know from the Minister what steps he has taken to provide accommodation at Rameshwaram where thousands of *bakthas* of Rama from all over the country and even from foreign countries visit? May I also know from the Minister what steps he will take to provide accommodation and some form of Yatri Niwas or ITDC hotels at Kanyakumari?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, just now I was going through the list and I found a large number of centres in Tamil Nadu which are being developed for providing Yatri Niwas of some sort. For example, the hon. Member has mentioned about Rameshwaram. A tousist reception centre at Rameshwaram at a cost of Rs. 14.85 lakhs is under construction. There may be more, I do not know. But my list says so. We have a Yatri Niwas scheme at Kancheepuram at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs. Similarly, in Kanyakumari, construction of 8 beach cottages at a cost of Rs. 13.36 lakhs is there.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: The hon. Minister has been very kind enough to report development of places of pilgrimage as tourist spots all over India. But it seems he has ignored Delhi. Sir, Bhagwan Mahavir Mandir has been put up at Qutub and that is a very nice area. May I know from the hon. Minister, whether he would consider developing it as a tourist spot and provide some Yatri Niwas type accommodation in that area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Delhi is a place of political privilege and not piligrimage.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी : माननीय सभापति जी, उत्तर प्रदेश में मेरठ जनपद में एक मुकाम है हस्तिनापुर। माननीय तिवारी जी जब उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री थे तो वे वहां गये थे और उन्होंने उसके डेवलपमेंट के लिये कुछ अनुदान भी दिया था। माननीय सभापति जी, लाखों जैन भाई हर साल यहां पर जमा होते हैं। यह भी कहा जाता है कि महाभारत काल में पांडवों की राजधानी हस्तिनापुर रही है। गंगा भी वहां पास ही बहती है। बहुत से माननीय सदस्य, जो इस सदन में हैं वे वहां पर गये हैं यह मेरे इल्म में है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि राज्य सरकार ने चाहे रेकमन्डेशन की हो या न की हो लेकिन आपको हस्तिनापुर का महत्व मालूम है और इसको देखते हुए क्या आप अपने इनिसियेटिव पर हस्तिनापुर में टूरिस्ट सुविधायें देने की चेष्टा करेंगे ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, मैं फिर वही निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि राज्य सरकारों का सहयोग इन केन्द्रों को आगे बढ़ाने में, इनको अच्छा बनाने में बहुत ही आवश्यक है और उनसे बगैर पूछे, बगैर जानकारी किये, बगैर सहयोग के केन्द्रीय सरकार कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कर सकती।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : माननीय मंत्री जी, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि भारत सरकार ने जानबूझकर हिन्दू धर्म के जो तीर्थ स्थल हैं उनके विकास के काम को न करने का ठेका लिया है। अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने अलग-अलग प्रश्न पूछे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान को अखंड रखने के लिये धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक दृष्टिकोण से चार धाम बनाये गये हैं, पुरी, रामेश्वरम, द्वारिका और बद्रीधाम। तो इन चारों धामों के विकास के लिये आपने आज तक क्या किया है? महोदय, उदाहरणस्वरूप मैं यहां देवघर का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं। इसके बारे में मैंने सरकार को लिखा है। सुलतानगंज से एक लाख यात्री प्रतिदिन श्रावण में, भादों में देवघर गंगा स्नान के लिये जाते हैं। सुलतानगंज स्टेशन से गंगा स्नान तक आने-जाने का रास्ता नहीं है। इतना लिखने के बाद, इतना कहने के बाद कि कोई भी तीर्थ स्थल ऐसा नहीं है जहां लाखों यात्री स्नान करने के लिये रोज जाते हों, लगातार दो महीने तक जाते हों। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि यात्रियों के आने-जाने के लिये आपने क्या सुविधायें दी हैं, क्या वहां पर आपने कुछ काम किया है यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्; चार धाम की यात्रा के बारे में जानकारी देने के लिए मंत्रालय ने एक किताब निकाली है, ब्रोशर निकाला है, इसकी क्या अहमियत है इसको सारे हिंदू और दूसरे व्यक्ति भी जानते हैं। सरकार से यह पूछा जाये कि हमने इन विभिन्न तीर्थ स्थानों को विकसित करने के लिए क्या किया तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो श्रद्धालू वहां जाते हैं वे ही विकास कर सकते हैं और वे ही करते आये हैं। सरकार तो केवल थोड़ी सुविधाएं दे सकती है, मुख्य रूप से सरकार की...
(व्यवधान)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : चार स्थलों के लिए कौन सी सुविधाएं प्राप्त करवायी हैं, उपलब्ध करायी हैं

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : इसके लिए सूचना चाहिए।